

Dumont Shade Tree Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Dumont Senior Center, Monday, October 21 2013 7:30pm

Sunshine Law: The Dumont Shade Tree Commission has complied with the open public meeting act, having sent notice to The Record, Ridgewood news and filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Borough's Official Bulletin Board.

Present: Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Mike Kuhn, Larry Tobias, Sally Tayeb, Kathleen Sheridan-Parrish

Guests: Rachel Bunin, Tara Barker, Anna Fisichella, Dennis Schuck

Absent: Council Liason Bill Brophy

1. **Call to order** – 7:30pm by Tom Fisichella, Abbie Slaman second.
2. **Review Minutes** – Minutes accepted for June, July, and August 2013. Larry Tobias asks that the minutes for September 2013 be amended to reflect that he will be going to the NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference on Saturday the 26th.
3. **Homeowner Issues** – None present
4. **Eagle Project for Dumont Scout Dennis Schuck** – Dennis Schuck explained his Eagle Project on Holt Street in Dumont. There is a WWII Memorial there for two men who fought in the war and lived in the Fleetwood section of Dumont. The bushes had become overgrown and most people in town don't even know the plaque is there. His plan is to refurbish the whole area by raising the plaque to be prominent, installing a Flag pole with American flag, and defining an area for plantings. Ray explains the mandate of the Shade Tree Commission and offers to contribute a tree to the project if it is part of the vision of the project. It is brought up that the Official Memorial Veterans tree is the Dogwood. Scout Schuck explains that the timing of his project is to be finished by December. Tom says there is time and we should make sure that it is staked for winter.

Ray asks for a vote that the Dumont Shade Tree Commission will contribute a tree to Dennis Schuck's Eagle Project on Holt Street. The vote is a unanimous yes.

5. **Itree** – The system is up and running. He hasn't been able to do updates due to computer issue but data is safe. The link has been sent to Mike and Sally. Others interested should send Larry their email and he will send back the link to be used with mobile smart phones. In the program tax blocks and zone will be the same number. The program has every tree known to man, Larry would like a list of the prominent trees in Dumont. It will make the program easier to use. Tom will get a list of prominent trees to Larry. Any unusual trees that are found can be entered in the comment section. Discussion on how to handle Dumont Parks. Larry suggests setting up a grid system that would handle interior trees as well as trees along the street. Tom adds that all parks had addresses at one time and that may be a beginning for accounting for park trees.
6. **Arboretum** –
 - a. **Project completion** - Tom reports that the Arboretum is basically done. We have 2 dozen leftover bricks. A list is being compiled of manufacturer information for items in the Arboretum if there comes a time that we need a replacement.
 - b. **Not-for-profit Status** – Friends of the Shade Tree met last week 10/ 14 /2013. Votes were taken on the structure of the organization and Bylaws. Sally has done the NJ paperwork and is waiting for certification as Friends of the Shade Tree. Sally also filed a DBA Friends of the Shade Tree. Sally will email policies. Board members can email back if they are in favor or not. Friends of the Shade Tree is a nonprofit for NJ. Federal tax exempt status is still a work in progress.

Sally Tayeb raised a Motion to accept as presented the name correction, The Friends of the Shade Tree, to match the NJ Records. Seconded by Ray. Vote passed unanimously.

- c. **Brick Walk** - Ray starts a discussion about the memorial bricks. We have gotten information from a company called Written in Stone in Closter NJ. We need to find out what their minimum order and time frame needed to get done. Rachel said she would be happy to step in and go forward getting info and a list of the names collected at Dumont Day. Ray states that goal is to have the bricks made, installed and unveiled on Arbor Day 2014. Tom has more order forms for the bricks. Abbie would like to put the order form on the website. There is still work being done by Mike to get paypal up on the website. All of the above is done thru The Friends of the Shade Tree inc. Tom and Anna Fisichella bring up that a vote needs to be taken to see if there is any objection to a DSTC Commissioner, Tom Fisichella, and a Friends of the Shade Tree Treasurer, Anna Fisichella being married and living together.

Ray proposes is there any objection to Tom Fisichella and Anna Fisichella, DSTC and Friends of the Shade Tree Treasurer being married and living together?
Unanimously no objection.

7. Community outreach and Communication

- a. **Newsletter** – The newsletter is slated to be out the beginning of December. Rachel asks Tom to do a brief blurb about what trees need during the winter. She will try to have info about Dennis Schucks Eagle Project in the Newsletter. If anyone gets a photo from the upcoming Dumont Fall Street Fair that may be useful. Rachel also reached out to the schools in hopes of getting submissions of artwork and poems/writing to use in a kids corner section of the newsletter.
- b. **Video Series** – Videos have been added to youtube. Anna Fisichella and Anthony Edone did a video for “buy a brick” which is up. The video Tom and Anna did for the Arboretum opening, “Arboretum Walkway – A Dream come true” , as well as “Reasons we need trees” are up also. Abbie also put them up on Facebook.
- c. **Website updates** – Ray has uploaded the Adopt a tree form. Also the Buy-A-Brick form is up. Mike is working on coordinating the paypal addition for the Buy-A-Brick.

8. **Sidewalk Sale October 26** – Ray and Mike will be at the Arboretum early to set up. We will have a tent and literature. We will not be selling baked goods. Abbie, Kathy, Tara and Sally will also come at varying times during the day to help out.

9. **Tree Maintenance** – Tom Reports that it is very quiet. There have been no significant storms. We are in between two systems for logging in inspections and permits and as of now there are no numbers available to report. Ray says Mike is also out doing inspections. The new system will be available to commission to log on online and check on permits and inspections.

10. **Adopt-A-Tree** – Ray ordered 27 trees for the fall planting. He will include a dogwood for the Holt Street Boy Scout Eagle Project. 8 of these trees will be planted at the Honiss School where 8 Heritage trees were taken down. Ray reports that the trees were taken down on Depew Street at Honiss School because of a Dept. of Transportation project that was to widen the road. The Shade Tree Commission signed off on the tree loss asking that in the budget there would be a replacement of trees at 2 for 1 of loss. The project changed when the cost to widen the road was more than anticipated. They did not widen the road. They decided to

do the curbs instead. Ray expressed his concern to John Perkins and Mayor Kelly about replacement of the trees. The outcome is 8 large tree species would be planted. 6 would be paid for by the town and 2 would be paid for by the DSTC.

11. **Continuing Education** – The NJ Tree Federation Annual Conference is October 25th and 26th. Ray, Abbie, Mike, Rachel and Kathy are going for session on the 25th. Tom, Anna, Larry and Ken McCabe are going for the session on the 26th.

12. **Town Council Ordinance** – Ray reports that so far no one that he has spoken to who was getting a permit considered it a burden. Soon the data base will be up and running and the commission will be able to log on and see the status of permits and the what, where and why of the tree.

13. **Other business.-**

- a. A tree was taken down at Dumont High School. Ray, Abbie and Kathy went to the Board of Education meeting to explain our position on the tree ordinance that any tree in the borough of Dumont needs to get a permit before removal. The Board of Education is having their lawyer review the ordinance to see if it pertains to them.
- b. Ray reports that the NJ Tree Federation is asking if communities have forms that they are successfully using could they share those with other communities. Ray suggests we submit out Adopt-A-Tree form.

Mike proposes we close the meeting. Tom second. Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm